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Applicants: Jerry S. Brown *et al.*
Serial No.: 10/664,003
Filed: September 16, 2003
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Attorney Docket No.: Navy Case 84658

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for decontaminating a contaminated surface, comprising the steps of:

providing a microemulsion composition having a microemulsion including a surfactant, a solid source of peroxy carboxylic acid dissolved in the microemulsion and a germinant in combination with the solid peroxy carboxylic acid within the microemulsion; and, and
applying the microemulsion composition to the contaminated surface effective for decontamination thereof.

17. (Original) The process of claim 16, wherein the microemulsion composition comprises a microemulsion, peracetyl borate and dipicolinic acid.

18. (Original) The process of claim 16, wherein the microemulsion composition comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of didecyl methylamine oxide, dimethyl decylamine oxide, and combinations thereof.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the peroxy carboxylic acid comprises peracetic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the peracetic acid comprises peracetyl borate.

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23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the peroxy carboxylic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.03 g/mL to about 0.20 g/mL.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 23, wherein the peroxy carboxylic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.10 g/mL to about 0.15 g/mL.

25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the germinant is selected from the group consisting of dipicolinic acid, alanine, asparagine, glucose, fructose, potassium chloride, and combinations thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 25, wherein the germinant comprises dipicolinic acid.

27. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 26, wherein the dipicolinic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.03 molar amount to about 0.30 molar amount.

28. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 27, wherein the dipicolinic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.15 molar amount to about 0.25 molar amount.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, further comprising a pH of the composition ranging from about 7.0 to about 10.0.

30. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the microemulsion is selected from the group consisting of didecyl methylamine oxide, dimethyl decylamine oxide, and combinations thereof;

the solid source of peroxy carboxylic acid comprises peracetyl borate; and,

the germinant comprises dipicolinic acid effective for spore germination in combination with the peracetyl borate within the microemulsion.